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PATENT  
Docket No. 47440-023000

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 09 2004**

In Re U.S. Patent Application )

Applicant: HERSHEY, ET AL. )

Serial No.: 09/672,452 )

Filed: September 29, 2000 )

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR STEGANOGRAPHIC  
EMBEDDING OF META-DATA** )

Examiner: Shafali D. Patel )

Art Unit: 2621 )

Certificate of Mailing

**Technology Center 2600**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Patrick D. Richards

Signature

March 1, 2004

Date of Signature

**PETITION AND FEE FOR THREE-MONTH  
EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petitions for a three-month extension of time to and including March 2, 2004, to file a response to the Office Action of September 2, 2003, which carried an original response date of December 2, 2003.

Please charge the amount of \$950.00 for the three-month extension, and any additional fee which may be due or any other charges in connection with the submission of this response to Deposit Account No. 13-0206. A duplicate copy of this communication is enclosed for that purpose.

Dated: March 1, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

Patrick D. Richards

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